(b) whether dalit women and girls continue to fall victim of rapes and gang rapes and the tormentors go scot free in recent years, if so, the number of such rapes reported during 1996, 1997 and 1998 so far, State and Union Territory-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to effectively check and prevent such atrocities?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Information relating to individual incidents of gang rape is not maintained separately at the Central level.

Available information in regard to conviction in rape/gang rape cases during the last three years is given below:—

Year	Total No. of Rape cases (including gang rape) tried	No. of cases leading to conviction
1995	7,732	2,332
1996	8;436	2,348
1997 (Prov.)	9,631	2,750

(c)'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. The registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crimes is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Central Government has been writing to the State Governments, from time to time, stressing upon them the need to take preventive and punitive measures in. connection with crimes against women, further, the Central Government has been modifying and amending the existing laws with a view to making them more stringent. The Central Government is now inter-acting with the state Governments on the question of providing death penalty for rapists.

Attempt by Pak to Alter the LoC in J&K

2704. SHRIMATI KAMALA SINHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan has been constantly trying to alter the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the areas where Loc has been altered by Pakistan and the extent of alteration; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Pakistan has been resorting to unprovoked firing from across the Line of Control and the international border in J&K'to facilitate infiltration by terroists and mercenaries from Pakistan and PoK into Jammu & Kashmir. They also resort to such firing to coincide with important international events and High Level bilateral meetings between India and Pakistan with a view to vitiate the atmosphere of bilateral dialogue and sensationalise the issue.

(c) The Government of India have repeatedly taken up the matter with the Government of Pakistan and it has been pointed out to them that such unprovoked firing from across the Line of Control constitutes a violation of the status-quo established in the State of J&K under the Shimla Agreement which they have been repeatedly called upon to respect, and to cease forthwith their support to cross-border terrorism and also stop unprovoked firing from across the border.

Killing in Chamba

2705. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons killed in Chamba in Himachal Pradesh by the extremists during August, 1998;

(b) whether all of them belonged to Chamba or any other district of Himachal Pradesh and other States; and

(c) what precautionary measures have been taken by Government to prevent such killing in future?